1           ABSTRACT

2           A navigation system includes a navigation-related information server and one or

3   more customer-interface servers. Each customer-interface server receives requests for

4   navigation-related information from end users who have end user computing platforms.

5   The end users send their requests for navigation-related information from end user

6   computing platforms over a data network to the customer-interface servers. In order to

7   respond to the end users, the customer-interface servers request language and format-

8   independent navigation-related information from the navigation-related information

9   server. The navigation-related information server receives the requests from the

10  customer-interface servers. To response to each request for navigation-related

11  information, the navigation-related information server uses one or more geographic

12  databases to formulate language- and format-independent data structures. These

13  language- and format-independent data structures are sent to the customer-interface

14  servers. The customer-interface servers receive the language- and format-independent

15  responses from the navigation-related information server, and formulate language- and

16  format-specific responses that are sent to the end users. In one embodiment, the language

17  and format-independent responses provided by the navigation-related information server

18  are in XML format. The customer-interface servers use XML style sheets to formulate

19  language and format-specific instructions that are sent to the end users.

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